Fund Allocation for the Schemes Meant for Agricultural Development in H.P.

1662. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to spend some amount out of total funds for the schemes meant for agricultural development in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is percentage of the funds allotted to Himachal Pradesh and district-wise, its utilization;

(c) whether Government have earmarked some blocks in far-flung areas of the State for some special assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The total agreed outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for Himachal Pradesh is Rs. 570000 lakh. Out of this, the agreed outlay for agriculture & allied activities is Rs. 84280 lakh. The allocation for agriculture sector comes to 14.78% of the total agreed outlay for the State. Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Planning Commission allocates funds as a whole to the State and it is the State to make the further sectoral/schematic and spatial distribution. Under the Border Area Development Programme, Special Central Assistance, is allocated to Himachal Pradesh. The amount is given to the State as a whole for border blocks. It is the State-level Screening Committee which makes further sectoral and spatial allocations.

Criteria for Determining Poverty Line in Orissa

1663. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted to determine the poverty line in Orissa, i.e., list of B.P.L.; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. These poverty line were originally recommended by a Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand in 1979. Then, in 1993, the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee) recommended disaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. The Planning Commission since March, 1997 has been using state-specific poverty lines following the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor for estimation of the persons living below the poverty line. The poverty line for Orissa in 1996-97 is estimated as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 249.69 in rural areas and Rs. 287.37 in urban areas. Besides the poverty line, the list of BPL (Below Poverty Line) is determined on the exclusion criteria of the following in the household: (i) 2 hectares of land, (ii) Pucca House, (iii) possession of any of the consumer durables such as television, refrigerator, ceiling fan, motor cycles/scooter and three-wheeler, (iv) farm implements such as tractor, power tiller, combined thresher/harvestor.